STATE OF CALIFORNIA KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD OF CALIFORNIA 2 Jose R. Guerrero SACRAMENTO, CA Supervising Deputy Attorney General 3 ESTHER H. LA Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 160706 4 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000 5 San Francisco, CA 94102-7004 Telephone: (415) 703-5636 Facsimile: (415) 703-5480 Attorneys for Complainant BEFORE THE 8 PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS 9 STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 1D 2012 72542 11 DANIEL WAZDATSKEY ACCUSATION 12 P.O. Box 1138 13 Aptos, CA 95001 14 25490 Cole Street Loma Linda, CA 92354 15 Physical Therapist Assistant 16 License No. AT 3176 17 Respondent. 18 19 Complainant alleges: 20 **PARTIES** 21 Rebecca Marco (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity 22 as the Executive Officer of the Physical Therapy Board of California, Department of Consumer 23 Affairs. 24 On or about September 15, 1993, the Physical Therapy Board of California issued 25 Physical Therapist Assistant license No. AT 3176 to Daniel Wazdatskey (Respondent). The 26 Physical Therapist Assistant license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges 2.7 brought herein and will expire on September 30, 2012, unless renewed. 28

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INTERIM ORDER OF SUSPENSION

On August 17, 2012, Respondent signed a Stipulation re: Interim Order of Suspension in which he agreed to an interim order prohibiting him from practicing as a physical therapist assistant; the Interim Order was issued on August 17, 2012.

JURISDICTION

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Physical Therapy Board of California (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
 - 4. Section 2609 of the Code states:

"The board shall issue, suspend, and revoke licenses and approvals to practice physical therapy as provided in this chapter."

5. Section 2660 of the Code states in relevant part:

"The board may, after the conduct of appropriate proceedings under the Administrative Procedure Act, suspend for not more than 12 months, or revoke, or impose probationary conditions upon any license, certificate, or approval issued under this chapter for unprofessional conduct that includes, but is not limited to, one or any combination of the following causes:

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- "(g) Gross negligence in his or her practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant."
 - 6. Section 726 of the Code states in relevant part:

"The commission of any act of sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a patient, client, or customer constitutes unprofessional conduct and grounds for disciplinary action for any person licensed under this division, under any initiative act referred to in this division and under Chapter 17 (commencing with Section 9000) of Division 3."

7. Section 2660.1 of the Code states:

"A patient, client, or customer of a licentiate under this chapter is conclusively presumed to be incapable of giving free, full, and informed consent to any sexual activity which is a violation of Section 726."

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COST RECOVERY

- 8. Section 2661.5 of the Code states:
- "(a) In any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the board, the board may request the administrative law judge to direct any licensee found guilty of unprofessional conduct to pay to the board a sum not to exceed the actual and reasonable costs of the investigation and prosecution of the case.
- "(b) The costs to be assessed shall be fixed by the administrative law judge and shall not in any event be increased by the board. When the board does not adopt a proposed decision and remands the case to an administrative law judge, the administrative law judge shall not increase the amount of the assessed costs specified in the proposed decision.
- "(c) When the payment directed in an order for payment of costs is not made by the licensee, the board may enforce the order of payment by bringing an action in any appropriate court. This right of enforcement shall be in addition to any other rights the board may have as to any licensee directed to pay costs.
- "(d) In any judicial action for the recovery of costs, proof of the board's decision shall be conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for payment.
- "(e) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the board shall not renew or reinstate the license or approval of any person who has failed to pay all of the costs ordered under this section.
- "(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the board may, in its discretion, conditionally renew or reinstate for a maximum of one year the license or approval of any person who demonstrates financial hardship and who enters into a formal agreement with the board to reimburse the board within that one year period for those unpaid costs.
- "(f) All costs recovered under this section shall be deposited in the Physical Therapy Fund as a reimbursement in either the fiscal year in which the costs are actually recovered or the previous fiscal year, as the board may direct."

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct: Sexual Misconduct/Gross Negligence)

- 9. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct under Code section 726 and/or section 2660(g) in that Respondent engaged in acts of sexual misconduct with a patient and was grossly negligent in his care of the patient. The circumstances are as follows:
- 10. In early July 2012, E.P. was a patient at Country Villa Watsonville East Nursing Center, where she was seen by Respondent for physical therapy treatment.
- 11. Respondent engaged in sexual misconduct with E.P. on three separate occasions as set forth below:
- A. On the first occasion, Respondent went into the patient's room, sat on her bed, and began to massage her feet. His hands then moved up her calf and thigh, then her inner thigh, and then he rubbed her vagina over her diaper. Respondent told the patient that "you still need it," and then walked out of the room.
- B. On the second occasion, which occurred a day or two later, Respondent went to the patient's room, sat on her bed, and began to massage her feet and calves. He then stood up and rubbed her breast. He then leaned over the patient and placed his groin against her elbow. The patient felt Respondent's erect penis through his pants.
- C. On the third occasion, which occurred on or about July 6, 2012, Respondent went to the patient's room and began rubbing her breast. He then removed his penis from his pants and rubbed it with one hand while touching the patient's breast with his other hand.
- 12. Respondent's sexual misconduct, as set forth above, constitutes unprofessional conduct in violation of Business and Professions Code sections 726 and/or 2660(g).

<u>PRAYER</u>

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Physical Therapy Board of California issue a decision:

¹ The patient's name is abbreviated to protect her privacy.